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TEMPORAL CLAUSES IN THE AENEID

In Two Parts—Part I

In the Aeneid as well as in other Latin Epics the temporal clauses generally express antecedent time, there being comparatively few occurrences of *antequam* and *priusquam*. Clauses giving contemporaneous action are fairly common in the mass, though in Silius Italicus they outnumber the *cum* clauses. As the poems for the most part portray events in the past, the tenses are suited to this, excepting that occasionally the narrative is prospective, and the future and the future perfect are used. Of the individual particles *cum* occurs oftenest, though the occurrences do not equal the sum for *ubi*, *ut* and *postquam*. These are given in the order of frequency of occurrence, although *ut* is used most freely by Lucan, who also has *postquam* oftener than *ubi*. Other writers prefer *ubi*, perhaps because of its serviceability in building dactyls.

There are numerous similes in the epic mass, and, in these, one object is often compared to another when something has or is taking place. In such statement either *cum* or *ubi*, as the meter may require, is used with the indicative. As illustrations may be given Stat Theb V 599 seq Ac velut aligeræ sedem foetusque parentis Cum piger umbrosa populatus in ilice serpens, Illa redit, querulaeque domus mirata quietem Stat super impendens advectosque horrida moesto Excitit ore cibos, cum solus in arbore cara Sanguis et errantes per capta cubilia plumæ; II 128 seq Qualis ubi audito venantum murmure tigris Horruit in maculas somnosque excussit inertes: Bella cupit laxatque genas et temperat unguis; Mox ruit in turmas natisque alimenta cruentis Spirantem fert ore virum; sic excitus ira Ductor in absentem consumit proelia fratrem.

While there are slight divergences in different writers, yet, taken as a whole, the pre-

sentation for Vergil fairly well represents the usage in all the succeeding writers on heroic subjects.

I Subsequent Action

Antequam, *Priusquam*—The occurrences of *antequam* and *priusquam*, generally in negative statements, are not numerous and merely illustrate certain constructions. On IV 24-27 prius . . . ante, Pudor, quam te violo, Conington remarks "The grammatical question is a difficult one". III 384-387 we find ante . . . quam possis, and similarly XI 809 priusquam . . . sequantur. The remaining subjunctives are III 255 seq non ante . . . quam . . . subigat; I 192 nec prius absistit quam . . . fundat; and I 472 avertit equos in castra, priusquam Pabula gustassent Troiae Xanthumque bibissent, where the subjunctive seems to be the indirect putting of the thought of the actor. Other examples of *priusquam* are in negative statements, with the perfect indicative II 741 and VI 328. The future perfect is found VI 140 Sed non ante datur telluris operta subire Auricomos quam qui decerpserit arbore fetus; and the future an elliptical statement IX 115 maria ante exurere Turno, quam sacras dabitur pinus.

II Contemporaneous Action

Donec, *Dum*—*Donec* and *dum*, omitting *cum* for the present, are used to express contemporaneous action, the former giving the terminal action stated in the indicative, excepting II 100 donec Calchantē ministro—where the verb is omitted, and XI 860 Et duxit longe, donec curvata coirent Inter se capita. The tense is generally the perfect: II 630 V 698 VI 745 VIII 326 IX 443 XI 803 XII 254; or the present: X 268 XI 201; or the two combined X 302 Donec rostra tenent siccum et sedere carinae. The future occurs I 273, and the future perfect II 719 donec me flumine vivo abluero.

Dum is more flexible and more serviceable than *donec*, as it may mean 'while', 'so long as' or 'until'. The present, in nearly all instances historical, is the prevailing tense. The pure present is found VIII 579 seq Nunc, nunc O liceat crudelem abrumpere vitam Dum curae ambiguae, dum spes incerta futuri, Dum te, care puer, mea sola et sera voluptas, Complexu teneo, and X 282 Ultro occurramus ad undam Dum trepidi egressisque labant vestigia prima. In a few passages the present is prospective, and the duration of the act is indicated: IV 51 morandi Dum pelago desaevit hiems, IV 335 nec me meminisse pigebit Elissae, Dum memor ipse mei, dum spiritus hos regit artus, VI 827 Concordes animae nunc et dum nocte premuntur.

Duration is also expressed by the perfect: I 268 III 16 X 43 X 321 Alcidae comes usque, graves dum terra labores Praebuit; but not so X 424 dum textit Imaona Halaesus Arcadio infelix telo dat pectus inermum. The imperfect is used more freely (II), and the future IX 448 and I 607 In freta dum fluvii current, dum montibus umbrae Lustrabunt, convexa polus dum sidera pascet, Semper honos nomenque tuum laudesque manebunt. The terminal action is expressed by the future perfect I 264 moenia ponet Tertia dum Latio regnantem viderit aestas, but elsewhere by the subjunctive; the present IV 325 434 XI 739 XII 570; the imperfect I 5 II 136 Delitui dum vela darent, si forte dedissent, where the thought of Sinon is indirectly stated. In X 800 sequuntur Dum genitor nati parma protectus abiret, *dum* means 'while' with design involved (See Draeger II bottom p 608). There is also one proviso clause XI 792 haec dira meo dum volnere pestis Pulsa cadat, patrias remeabo inglorius urbes.

As may be seen from the above sketch, there are no unusual features, nor is there any in the retention of the present X 189 seq ferunt . . . dum canit . . . duxisse senectam. However, of some interest is the *dum* clause in connection with a *cum* clause indicating lapse of time V 626 seq Septima post Troiae excidium

iam vertitur aestas, Cum freta, cum terras omnis, tot inhospita saxa Sideraque emensae ferimur, dum per mare magnum Italiam sequimur fugientem, et volvimur undis.

III Antecedent Action

Postquam—The historical present or perfect, occasionally with *sunt* omitted as I 520 and XI 248 introgressi, are regularly used with *postquam*, though the pluperfect occurs XI 94 Postquam omnis longe comitum praecesserat ordo Substitit Aeneas; and the perfect subjunctive in an indirect statement VII 765 Namque ferunt fama Hippolytum, postquam arte novercae Occiderit patriasque explerit sanguine poenas . . . venisse.

Ut—*Ut* is used the same as *postquam*, in most instances with the perfect, occasionally with the present, and once with the pluperfect indicative XI 573 Utque pedum primis infans vestigia plantis Institerat, iaculo palmas armavit acuto. Here *ut primis* equals *ut primum* which is not uncommonly found. Contrasted with *ubi*, *ut* is not freely used with pronouns, though we find II 119 quae vox ut venit; and ille ut III 53 XII 557 710.

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